WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing database operations, the method comprising the steps of:

reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;

assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;

and

executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements includes the sub-steps of:

reading a name of a second table from a first table; and

reading a plurality of arguments for the query string from the second table.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language command and the plurality of arguments.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from the first set of one or more tables further includes the sub-step of reading one or more names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first table.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the sub-step of reading a plurality of arguments for the first query language command from the second table includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second table.

1   6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the

2   sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the name of the one or more

3   source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.

1   7.   The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of reading a second query

2   language command from the first table.

1   8.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of reading a plurality of names

2   of columns of a target data table from the second table.

1   9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the

2   sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include the second query

3   language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.

1   10.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;

3   assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements

4   and

5   executing the data base table storage command string in order to modify a target data table.

1   11.   A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query

2   Language UPDATE command string.

1   12.   A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query

2   Language INSERT command string.

1 13.   A method according to claim 10, wherein one or more tables in said second set of one or more

2 tables is also in said first set of one or more tables.

1 14.   A method according to claim 10, wherein said second plurality of elements contain data used

2 to specify the order in which data elements are to be stored.

1 15.   A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of executing said storage

2 command string so as to cause all or a part of said source data set to be stored.

16.   A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for performing database operations, said
program containing instructions for performing the steps of:

reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;

assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;

and

executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

17.   The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the step of reading a plurality
of elements includes the sub-steps of:

reading a name of a second table from the first table;

reading a plurality of arguments for the query language command from the second table;

and

executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

18.   The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of assembling the
query string includes the sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language
command and the plurality of arguments.

19.   The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of reading a first
plurality of elements of a first query from the first set of one or more tables further includes the sub-step
of reading one or more names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first table.

20.   The computer readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the step of reading a plurality
of arguments for the first query language command from the second table further includes the sub-step
of reading a plurality of names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second table.

21.   The computer readable medium according to claim 20, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the name of the one or more source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.

22.   The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the program further contains instructions for performing the step of reading a second query language command from the first table.

23.   The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the step of reading a plurality of arguments for the query language command from the second table includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of names of columns of a target data table from the second table.

24.   The computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include the second query language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.

25.   The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the program further contains instructions for performing the steps of:
    reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;
    assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements; and
    executing the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

26.   The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query Language UPDATE command string.

1   27.   The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string

2   is Structured Query Language INSERT command string.

1   28.   The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein one or more tables in said

2   second set of one or more tables is also in said first set of one or more tables.

1   29.   The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said second plurality of

2   elements contain data used to specify the order in which data elements are to be stored.

1   30.   The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further contains

2   instructions for performing the step of executing said storage command string so as to cause all or a part

3   of said source data set to be stored.

1   31.   A data processing system comprising:

2   a storage device for storing a relational database; and

3   a processor programmed to:

4   read a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more tables;

5   assemble a query string from the first plurality of elements;

6   and

                   execute the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

1   32.   A data processing system according to claim 31, wherein the processor is further programmed

2   to:

3   read a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more tables;

4   assemble a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements;

5   and

6   execute the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

1   33.   A data processing system comprising:

2   means for storing one or more data tables;

3   means for reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more

4   tables;

5   means for assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements;

6   and

7   means for executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data

8   tables.

1   34.   A data processing system according to claim 33, further comprising:

2   means for reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more

3   tables;

4   means for assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of

5   elements;

6   and

7   means for executing the database table storage command to modify a target data table.

1   35.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure including:

2   a name of a first table that includes data to be processed; and

3   a name of a second table that includes arguments to be used in composing a database

4   command to process the data.

1   36.   The computer readable medium according to claim 35, wherein the data structure further

2   includes identification of an SQL command to be used in processing the data.